

When Mr. Pablo Pereira, our Minister of the Economy and Development, returned from the Meeting of Ministers in Denver, he reported to me in detail on two events of special importance to our country that took place in that city.

(1) The signing of Bilateral Investment Treaty between the United States and Nicaragua.

(2) A working session with you where we responded to your initiative of holding a Forum on Trade and Investment at the Central American level with an invitation to stage such a Forum in Managua.

I now have the pleasure of reiterating that invitation to you and to tell you that in Nicaragua we will welcome you, your assistants and the important business people that accompany you, with open arms.

From the outset, we believe this event will be important, not only to give the Bilateral Investment Treaty its own dimension, but also to provide a magnificent opportunity to examine, within a Central American context, concrete perspectives on trade and investment between our subregion and the United States.

In this same vein of ideas, allow me to suggest the creation of a U.S.-Central America Business Development Council, a body that will promote business ties, providing the private sector with the major role befitting it in our societies.

Mr. Brown, distinguished guests, Central America is a region that has abandoned war and violence and has initiated the irreversible consolidation of its democracies. I am proud to point out that, toward the end of next year, we will hold in Nicaragua, the fairest, most free elections in our history. These elections will mean a political transition without interruption, guaranteeing our democracy. Pacification, reconciliation and development have been the central themes of my Government, under the difficult circumstances I have had to govern.

In my country we put an end to the hyperinflation of the 1980s, launched a highly successful process of privatization, reduced the foreign debt and made considerable progress in the solution of the property issue inherited by my Government. We also began an intensive process of export diversification and, in general, have laid the groundwork for a better transformation of production with economic and social equity. Nicaragua is a stable country, currently open to foreign investment and willing to gradually assume the responsibilities imposed by economic globalization and international competition. Our convictions, our principles, as well as our laws grant complete security and protection to foreign investment.

I invite the American business people to discover Nicaragua. Here, among us, we have examples of business people and businesses that know that in our country in particular, and Central America in general, significant opportunities for trade and investment are taking place.

Come to Nicaragua. Come to Central America, we are waiting for you.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY A. FOSTER

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Mr. Larry A. Foster of Forest Park, who recently passed away. His passing at the young age of 54 is a loss that is felt, not by just his family

and friends, but by the community he lived in, loved, and served over the years. He will be greatly missed.

Larry was born in Atlanta but moved to Clayton County at an early age. He was a star athlete at Forest Park High School where he played lineman, participated in two State championship football games and was named all-State lineman of the year. His talent on the playing field, combined with his academic performance in the classroom, won him a scholarship to Auburn University. He later transferred to Virginia Military Institute where he also played football.

He served his country with honor and distinction in the U.S. marine Corps. Larry spent 13 months of his 3½ years in the Corps in Vietnam. After leaving the Marines as a lieutenant, he returned to his beloved Georgia where he taught school and coached football at Hapeville and attended night law school at Emory University.

When the night school program ended, Larry faced a difficult choice. The choice he made shows us a great deal about this man's character and determination. He left his secure job of teaching and the coaching he loved, to enter Emory as a full-time law student.

After graduation, he started a legal career that grew and flourished through the years. He joined a well-known private law firm in Clayton County, but he also found the time to serve his community and State in so many other ways. From 1973 to 1989, he served as the Clayton County School Board attorney and from 1989 to 1993 he was the attorney for Clayton County. At various times during his career he also served as city attorney for both Riverdale and Morrow.

His love of education led him to the Georgia Board of Education where he served for 14 years. During his time on the board, Larry played a major role in shaping the State's "no-pass, no play" rule, which requires student athletes to maintain their grades to be eligible to play competitive sports. He was a champion of local school superintendents and principals, pushing for better training programs and better benefits to keep school leaders from leaving the State.

Service to the community went beyond his legal expertise, however. He was a member and past president of the Southlake Kiwanis Club, the past president of the Clayton County Bar Association, and past district director in the Boy Scouts where he was active for many years.

Larry will be greatly missed. He will be missed by his wife, Mary Jo, to whom he had been married since 1968, and by his two children, Rachel Foster and Larry Allen Foster, Jr. He will be missed by his mother, Frances Foster, and his three brothers, Paul, Donald, and Terry.

His loss is also a great loss to the people of Clayton County and the State of Georgia. He touched the lives of so many people—his fellow classmates and athletes in his youth, the men he served with and led in the U.S. Marine Corps, the students he taught and the football players he coached while a teacher at Hapeville school, his fellow attorneys, teachers, principals, superintendents, youngsters in the Boy Scouts.

The list goes on and on. Larry will be missed. His all-too-short life exhibited the grit, the determination, professionalism and service

for which we all should strive in our lives. He was more than just a constituent, he was a friend. I am proud to have known Larry Foster, and I will miss him.

TRIBUTE OF FRANCIS JOSLIN

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Francis Joslin of Washington State.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 11, when we pause to remember the military veterans of our Nation who have fought to preserve our freedom, Francis Joslin should be in our thoughts. During world War II, Mr. Joslin exhibited the kind of courage and perseverance that most Americans of the postwar generations can scarcely imagine.

As an 18-year-old Army recruit in the spring of 1941, Mr. Joslin was sent to the Philippines, where he was assigned to a coastal artillery battery. When World War II began on December 7, he was transferred to the 31st Infantry. He was among the American defenders of the Philippines who fought the Japanese invasion force from Luzon to Bataan.

When Bataan fell on April 9, 1942, he and a small group of soldiers fled, swimming to the island of Corregidor, where he fought on until it too was surrendered on May 6. He was taken prisoner.

By escaping to Corregidor, Mr. Joslin had avoided what was later named the Bataan Death March. But with the fall of Corregidor, he was to begin 3 years of imprisonment, slave labor, and torture that most of us probably would not have endured. At the time of his capture, he was 6-foot-2 and weighed 190 pounds. At his liberation on August 15, 1945, he weighed but 105 pounds.

At first imprisoned in Manila, Mr. Joslin, suffered from malaria for which he was given no medicine, was beaten and was not given enough food to sustain his health. He witnessed horrid acts of torture against fellow prisoners who had escaped to try to find food.

Then that winter he and 1,500 of his fellow soldiers were moved to frigid northern China, where they were used as forced labor at a tannery and in lead mines. Survival again became a daily challenge. During that winter of 1943, they supplemented their inadequate rations by eating grass and capturing wild dogs.

In the summer of 1944, suffering from fatigue and malnutrition, Mr. Joslin lost consciousness in the mine. When he awakened outside the mine 3 days later, his guards believed he had tried to escape. He was taken back to the mine and forced to stand naked for 2 days without food or water. That was followed by 2 days in solitary confinement, again without food or water.

Shipped to Japan, he spent 10 days in solitary confinement without food or water and was repeatedly beaten. At the end of this chapter of his ordeal he was tried by a Japanese court for escape and sabotage and sentenced to life in solitary confinement.

Mr. Joslin spent the last year of his confinement in an unheated, windowless cell in Japan. The cell was 5 feet wide and 10 feet long. The ceiling was 5½ feet high. A 40-watt

electric bulb lighted the cell 24 hours a day. He received one rice ball and a canteen of water each day.

Mr. Joslin's solitude and prayers were interrupted only by beatings he received after Allied bombing raids. One day his guards removed him from the cell, placed his leg on a table and stabbed it repeatedly to see if they could make him scream. He was afraid that if he cried out that he would be shot. So he kept his silence. His untreated wounds grew infected.

Finally in an August 14, 1945, radio broadcast, Emperor Hirohito told his people that the war was lost. The doors of the prison were opened the next day, and Mr. Joslin struggled his way to a United States prisoner of war camp where he was eventually liberated by Australian troops and shipped home to San Francisco for treatment.

Mr. Joslin served his country for many more years in the Army and later in the Air Force. He is now retired, after 24 years of military service, and living in my home county, Pierce County, WA.

A modest may, Mr. Joslin's story remained unknown to most of his family and friends until recently. When he recently wrote down his wartime experience at the request of his family, they were moved to honor him on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Japanese surrender at a special gathering.

As we near Veterans Day in this 50th anniversary year of the end of World War II, it is fitting that we take note of the personal sacrifice and bravery of Francis Joslin and other former prisoners of war like him. In a profound sense our Nation owes that generation of heroes a debt which we can never repay. Please join me in acknowledging their special contribution to our country's history and offering a humble thank you.

HONORING VETERANS DAY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today, there are over 28 million living veterans. They are among the reasons that the United States is the mightiest, wealthiest, most secure nation on the Earth today. They are the reason that the United States has been, and will continue to be, the bastion of support and solace for those in a world searching for freedom and human rights.

This Veterans Day, in addition to honoring veterans from all wars, we are also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. We particularly remember the veterans who fought in that war so that the world would be free from Hitler's tyranny.

From a personal perspective, my family, like many others, is indebted to the American men and women who served in the Allied forces during World War II. Without them, I am not sure I would be here today. My mother and father spent the war fleeing and hiding from the Nazis. I was born in a displaced persons camp in 1948 after the war. If the Allied troops had not stopped Hitler's cruelty 50 years ago, would the war have been over by 1948? What would the map of the world look like today? I prefer not to dwell on these questions. In-

stead, on this Veterans Day, I wish to express my unending gratitude to these men and women.

As a Member of Congress, I am pleased to be in a position to honor our veterans. They willingly went to war to defend our country and our way of life. Now the Federal Government has an obligation to provide the benefits that were promised to these men and women. We must honor that commitment. That is why I have consistently supported legislation in Congress to expand and preserve benefits for our Nation's veterans. It is ironic that in the year of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, some people in Congress have advocated breaking our commitment with our veterans by cutting their benefits. While I understand the need to get our fiscal house in order—balance the budget and reduce the deficit—I do not believe that doing so on the backs of veterans is the answer.

Veterans Day is a time to remember all those men and women who gave their lives and livelihoods for their country. It is a time to honor those individuals who survived these armed conflicts and it is a time to reflect on how we can continue, in time of peace, the tradition of hard work for our Nation that these brave men and women established in time of war. Most importantly, we must reflect on how best to thank our veterans for their contributions to making this country the greatest democracy in the world.

NEW JERSEY JOURNALIST ACQUITTED BY TURKISH MILITARY COURT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 9, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express by heartfelt relief that fellow American Aliza Marcus was acquitted by a State Security Court in Turkey today. The charges which had been brought against her raised serious questions about Turkish leaders' stated commitments to democracy, and her trial generated substantial interest in the United States and among Members of Congress. Perhaps more than any recent case, the trial of this Rueters journalist from New Jersey heightened awareness about restrictions on free speech in Turkey. Her case was specifically protested in report language on the recently passed foreign operations appropriations bill. Yesterday 9 Senators and 38 of my House colleagues joined me in an urgent appeal to the Turkey's President Demirel on behalf of Aliza Marcus and others charged with or imprisoned for speech crimes.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the acquittal of Ms. Marcus, I am also encouraged by steps Turkey has recently taken to alter article 8 of the antiterror law, which has frequently been used to criminalize free speech. The release, since October 30, of up to 80 persons detained under article 8 is a significant positive development which offers further hope that this restrictive law, and others like it will soon become anachronisms in Turkey, as they have become in other European States.

Unfortunately, however, the Government of Turkey continues to routinely charge, convict, and imprison individuals for speech crimes. I

would point out that four Kurdish members of Turkey's Parliament remain imprisoned for speech crimes, including Leyla Zana, who today was awarded the European Parliament's Sakharov prize for freedom of thought. It is sadly ironic that 1 day before the State Security Court acquitted Ms. Marcus, charges were brought against eight leaders of one of Turkey's most respected human rights organizations, the Human Rights Foundation. I recently met with the foundation's president, Yavuz Onen, when he was here to accept an award on behalf of the foundation.

Mr. Speaker, another troubling issue underscored by Ms. Marcus' case relates to the role of the military-sponsored State Security Courts. These legacies of military law pose serious questions about judicial independence in Turkey and the role of the military in Turkey's political life. These courts continue to be responsible for the imprisonment of Turkish intellectuals, journalists, and others, and are increasingly viewed as a major impediment to Turkish democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as long as the Government of Turkey maintains and uses laws to restrict free expression, and as long as hundreds of political prisoners remain in jail, questions about the Government's stated international human rights commitments will remain. Given the high priority Turkish leaders have placed upon Turkey's entry into the European Customs Union, recent reforms seem to reflect more of a commitment to good public relations than to principles of democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I have always supported the strategic, economic, and political foundations upon which our vital partnership with Turkey are based and have supported the Turkish Government's right to combat terrorism. Yet if we support these objectives to the detriment of human rights, we are doing a disservice to the people of Turkey and are undermining our own long-term policies in the region.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1833) to amend title 18, United States Code, to ban partial-birth abortions:

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the underlying premise of this legislation that late-term abortions should not be performed on healthy, viable fetuses, and because of this I have chosen to support this bill. However, I think of H.R. 1833 as an abstract idea, and not the final word on this controversial subject. I have concerns about the vagueness of the language in the bill, as well as the lack of medical terminology when referencing obvious medical procedures. Although I am pro-choice, this does not necessarily mean that I am pro-abortion. I am concerned that a woman's right to the safest medical care possible and her constitutional right to choice in these tragic cases is being jeopardized. It is my hope that if this bill is passed by the Senate and goes to conference, that a more moderate approach